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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

Free Mediation Training Offered for Court Volunteers

(Phoenix, Ariz. – November 9, 2006) The Attorney General's Office Civil Rights Division, in partnership with the Arizona Supreme Court Administrative Office of the Court, is offering 40-hour mediation courses free of charge throughout the state to train volunteers to help resolve local court disputes.

Mediators are neutral parties who try to help disputing parties reach an agreement. It is a valuable alternative to litigation, saving time, money and stress. Mediation also reduces the courts' heavy caseloads.

Training courses are open to the public. In exchange for the free training, those who successfully complete the course must agree to mediate a certain number of court disputes on a volunteer basis. Each court has its own mediation requirements. Disputes to be mediated include small claims, commercial, truancy and other types of cases. The Attorney General's Office has been training mediators for the courts since 1984 and has its own volunteer mediation program for resolving civil rights cases.

The 40-hour mediation training will be offered at the following locations on the dates listed:

- Phoenix, Maricopa County: December 4, 5, 6, 11, 12
- Casa Grande, Pinal County: January 22, 23, 24, 29, 30
- Kingman, Mohave County: February 22, 23, 28, March 1, 2
- Sierra Vista, Cochise County: March 19, 20, 21, 22, 23
- Tucson, Pima County: April 9, 10, 11, 16, 17
- St. Johns, Apache County: May 2, 3, 4, 10, 11
- Phoenix, Maricopa County: June 7, 8, 9, 15, 16

Training sessions will begin each day at 8:30 a.m. with a working lunch and end at 4:30 p.m. Participants must complete all five days of training to become eligible to mediate for the courts.

If you are interested in registering for one of these training sessions or have any questions, please contact Garrett Hoover, Conflict Resolution Program Coordinator, in the Civil Rights Division of the Arizona Attorney General's Office. He can be reached by phone at (602) 542-7767. Space is limited and advance registration is required.

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